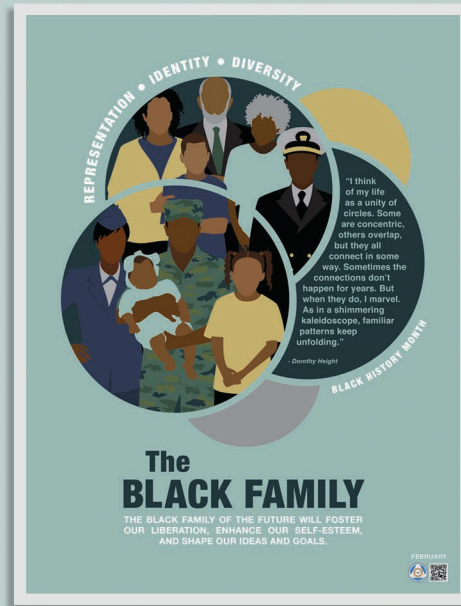


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



FACTS

Each February, we recognize African American/Black History Month to honor the contributions of African Americans throughout our nation's history through times of peace and conflict.

The observance is mandated by Public Law 99-244.

The annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans is associated with Dr. Carter G. Woodson. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

In 1926, Dr. Woodson initiated the celebration of Negro History Week, which encompassed the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Over the years, the ASALH themes have reflected changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the Black community.

The 2021 theme is: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity. The Black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy.

On military installations around the world, the Department of Defense joins in paying tribute to African Americans' contributions to protecting the nation and enriching our culture.